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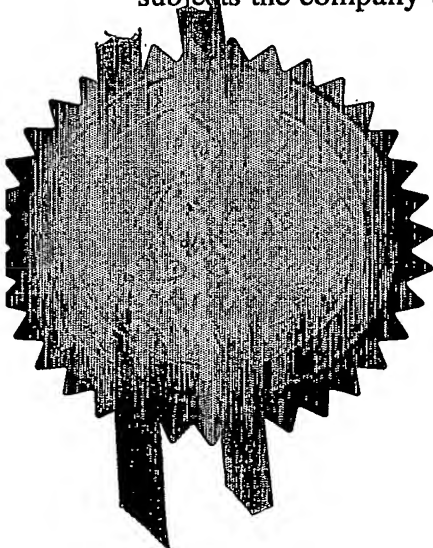
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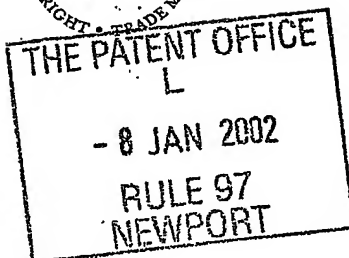
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P01/7700 0200-0200387.9



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Request for grant of a patent

(See the notes on the back of this form. You can also get an explanatory leaflet from the Patent Office to help you fill in this form)

1. Your reference

P1057

08 JAN 2002

2. Patent application number

(The Patent Office will fill in this part)

0200387.9

3. Full name, address and postcode of the or of each applicant (underline all surnames)

ROBERT FRANCIS RICKARDS
32A HULHAM ROAD
EXMOUTH
DEVON
EX8 3MS

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

If the applicant is a corporate body, give the country/state of its incorporation

8300287001

4. Title of the invention

BOOK READING AID

5. Name of your agent (if you have one)

"Address for service" in the United Kingdom to which all correspondence should be sent (including the postcode)

CRASKE & Co.
PATENT LAW CHAMBERS
15 QUEENS TERRACE
EXETER
EX4 4HT

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

79 71 004

6. If you are declaring priority from one or more earlier patent applications, give the country and the date of filing of the or of each of these earlier applications and (if you know it) the or each application number

Country

Priority application number
(if you know it)

Date of filing
(day / month / year)

7. If this application is divided or otherwise derived from an earlier UK application, give the number and the filing date of the earlier application

Number of earlier application

Date of filing
(day / month / year)

8. Is a statement of inventorship and of right to grant of a patent required in support of this request? (Answer 'Yes' if:

- a) any applicant named in part 3 is not an inventor, or
 - b) there is an inventor who is not named as an applicant, or
 - c) any named applicant is a corporate body.
- See note (d))

No

Patents Form 1/77

9. Enter the number of sheets for any of the following items you are filing with this form. Do not count copies of the same document

Continuation sheets of this form

Description

5

Claim(s)

2

Abstract

1 DWK

Drawing(s)

2+2

10. If you are also filing any of the following, state how many against each item.

Priority documents

Translations of priority documents

Statement of inventorship and right to grant of a patent (*Patents Form 7/77*)

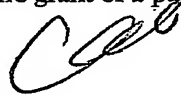
Request for preliminary examination and search (*Patents Form 9/77*)

Request for substantive examination (*Patents Form 10/77*)

Any other documents
(please specify)

11. I/We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application.

Signature



Date

7 January 2002

12. Name and daytime telephone number of person to contact in the United Kingdom

Mr SA CRADKE 01392 413 479

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DUPLICATE

P1057

Robert Francis Rickards

BOOK READING AID

TECHNICAL FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a device for facilitating the reading of a book.

BACKGROUND

Books which have simple bindings, particularly paper-back books, do not open flat, especially when new, and tend to close while being read. This is a nuisance because either the book has to be held open when reading or some means have to be found to prevent the book from closing. Readers resort to various devices for achieving this end, such as elastic bands, or weights of one sort or another. More sophisticated devices exist such as small lecterns with paper retainers, but these can be inconvenient for personal users. UK published application **GB 2 345 265 A** discloses a device which clips to a cover or group of pages of a book and has a page holder which can move vertically on a cylindrical support and be rotated to be brought into juxtaposition with the pages on one side of the spine of the book to retain those pages in position. Although the device may be effective

for its purpose, it is cumbersome and could be visually distracting to a reader of a book.

It is an object of the present invention to provide an improved device for facilitating the reading of a book.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

According to the present invention, there is provided a device for facilitating the reading of a book, comprising an elongated member which terminates in two inwardly-directed end-pieces.

Preferably, the end-pieces are generally C-shaped. The elongated member may be of telescopic construction to accommodate books of different widths.

The end-pieces may be integral with the elongated member and made of a resilient material such that the end-pieces tend to adopt a closed position. Alternatively, the end-pieces may be attached pivotally to the ends of the elongated member and spring-loaded towards a closed position. The spring-loading is preferably arranged such that the end pieces may be moved with an over-centre action to a fully-opened position.

The end-pieces may have different widths and the free ends thereof may be provided with articulated pads.

The entire device can be fabricated from a single strip of spring steel or

formed as a single resilient plastics moulding.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The following description and the accompanying drawings referred to therein are included by way of non-limiting example in order to illustrate how the invention may be put into practice. In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a longitudinal section of an embodiment of the invention;

Figure 2 is a longitudinal section of one end of a second embodiment of the invention;

Figure 3 is a longitudinal section of a third embodiment of the invention; and

Figure 4 is a pictorial representation of the first embodiment of the invention in use.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Referring to **Fig. 1** of the drawings, a book page holder consists of a tubular elongated member 100 which terminates in C-shaped end-pieces 101, 102. The end pieces curve to one side of the elongated member and are

inwardly-directed towards each other. Attached to the free ends of the end-pieces 101, 102 are pads 103, 104 which in use bear upon the open pages of a book. The pads 103, 104 are attached to the free ends of the end pieces 101, 102 by joints 105, 106, respectively, which allow a limited amount of universal motion to ensure that the pads 103, bear fairly upon the pages of the book.

The tubular elongated member 100 is in two section 107, 108 one of which can be moved telescopically within the other so that the device can be used with books of different sizes. The elongated member 100 may have a rectangular or circular cross-section. One end-piece 101 in the drawing is smaller in diameter than the other. In use, a reader places the end piece having the larger diameter over the unread, and therefore thicker portion of the book and the device is reversed after the mid-point of the book has been reached. The end-pieces 101, 102 may be made of a springy plastics material or steel strip to produce a holding force on the pages of the book while allowing the number of pages being held to increase, or decrease, as appropriate, as the book is read.

Fig. 2 shows a cross-sectional view of a different construction for the end-pieces 101, 102. In this case, the end-pieces 101, 102 are made of a rigid material and are attached to the elongated member 100 via a pivot pin 201. Only one end-piece, numbered 101, is shown in the drawing as the other is of similar construction. In order to provide a biasing force upon the pad 103, the end-piece projects beyond the pivot pin and is shaped into a cam 202 which bears upon a tongue 203 formed by cutting two parallel slits in the end of the tubular member 100 in which the end-piece 101 is inserted.

The shape of the cam 202 formed by the over-hung portion of the end-piece 101 is so shaped that initially the end-piece 101 is biased towards a closed position with a force which increases with the number of pages to be held by the end-piece 101, but when an over-centre position is reached, the end-piece 101 is held in an open position to facilitate the removal of the device from the book with which it is being used. A slot 204 is cut in the end of the tubular member 100 opposite the tongue 203 to accommodate this action.

Fig. 3 show another embodiment in which the entire device is made of a single strip 301 of spring steel the ends of which are formed into two open coils 302, 303 of different diameter. A similar embodiment could be formed as a single resilient plastics moulding.

Fig. 4 shows a pictorial view of the first embodiment of the invention in use.

It will be appreciated that the features disclosed herein may be present in any feasible combination. Whilst the above description lays emphasis on those areas which, in combination, are believed to be new, protection is claimed for any inventive combination of the features disclosed herein.

* * * * *

CLAIMS

1. A device for facilitating the reading of a book, comprising an elongated member which terminates in two inwardly-directed end-pieces.
2. A device according to Claim 1, wherein the end pieces are generally C-shaped.
3. A device according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the elongated member is of telescopic construction.
4. A device according to Claim 1, 2 or 3 wherein the end pieces are formed of a resilient material.
5. A device according to Claim 4, wherein the resilient material is spring steel or plastic.
6. A device according to any of Claims 1 to 5, wherein the end-pieces ~~are integral~~ are integral with the elongated member.
7. A device according to any of Claims 1 to 3, wherein the end-pieces are pivotally attached to the elongated member and there is provided means for urging the end-pieces towards a closed position.
8. A device according any preceding claim, wherein the free ends

of the end-pieces terminate in pivotally mounted pads.

9. A device according to any preceding claim, wherein one end piece is larger than the other.

10. A device according to Claim 1 or 2, comprising a strip of resilient material having a substantially flat central portion and two open coiled end pieces.

11. A device according to Claim 10, wherein the diameter of one end-piece coil is larger than the other.

12. A device for facilitating the reading of a book which is substantially as herein described with reference to the drawings.

* * * * *

ABSTRACT

A device for facilitating the reading of a book, which includes an elongated member 100 which terminates in two inwardly-directed end-pieces 101 and 102.

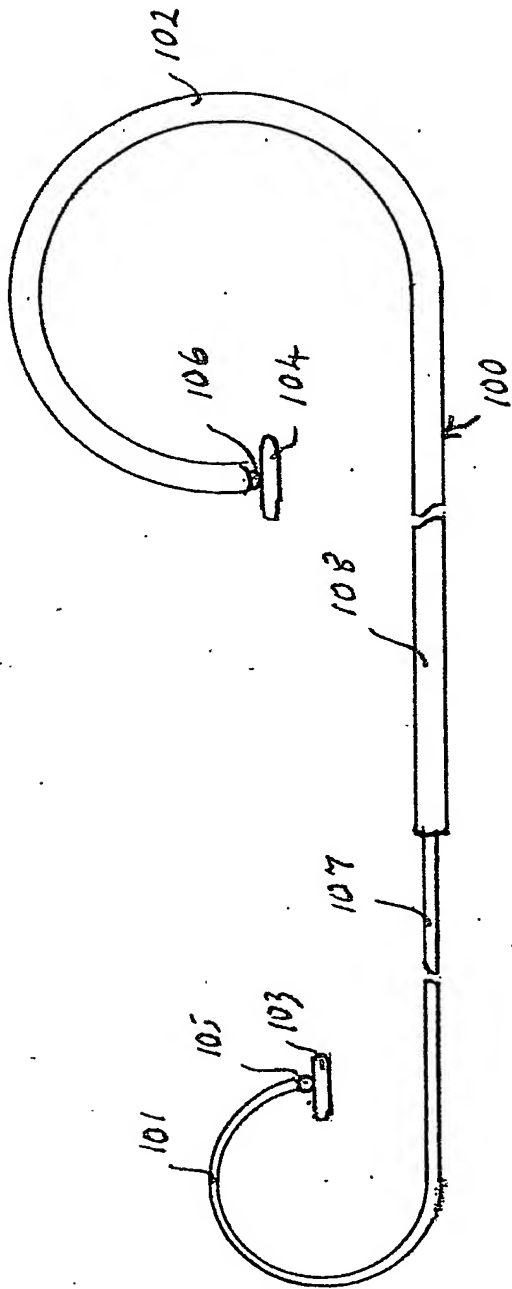


Fig. 1

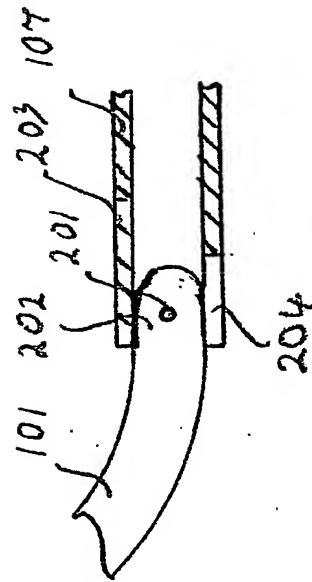


Fig. 2

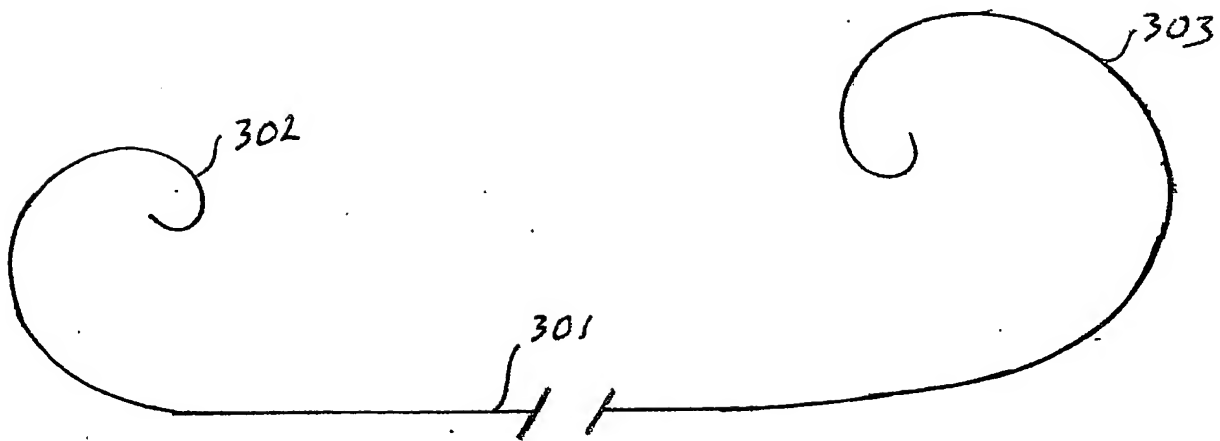


Fig 3

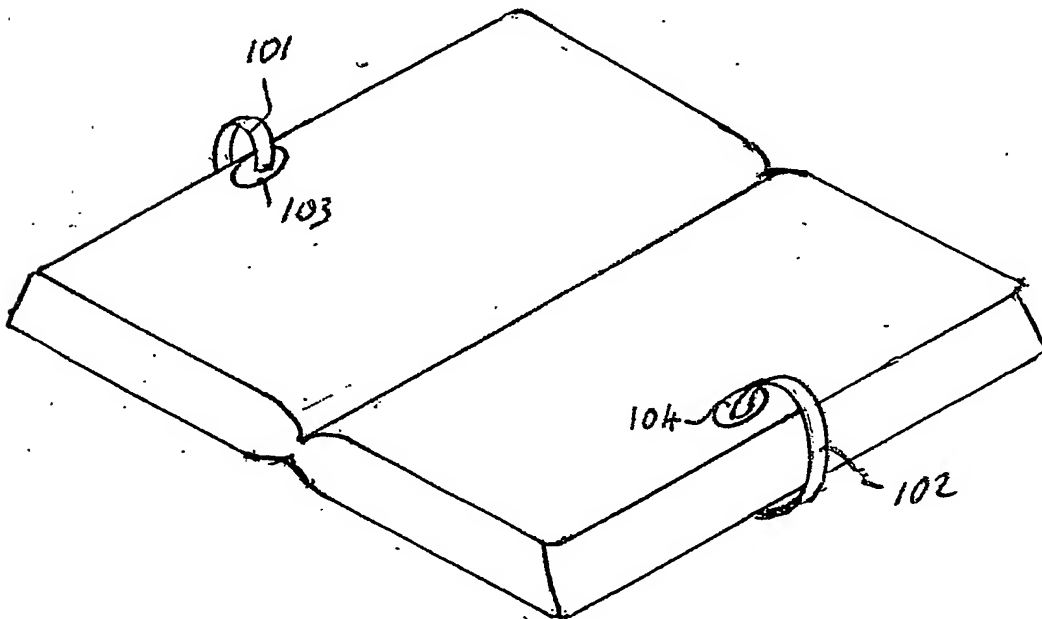


Fig 4